



# Representative Dan Roach



## **Action & Accountability Report & Survey**

### **31<sup>st</sup> District State Representative**

#### **Committees**

Finance (Vice Chair)  
Agriculture & Ecology  
Financial Institutions  
& Insurance

#### **Olympia:**

413 John L. O'Brien Bldg  
P.O.Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600  
(360) 786-7846

#### **E-mail:**

roach\_da@leg.wa.gov

#### **Toll-Free Hotline:**

1-800-562-6000

#### **TDD Hotline for the Hearing Impaired:**

1-800-635-9993

*Dear Friends & Neighbors,*

*It is an honor to serve as your state representative. Although we face an evenly divided House with 49 Republican and 49 Democrat members and a Senate split with 25 Democrats and 24 Republicans, I believe that good legislation will indeed pass. As your state representative, I will work in a bipartisan manner while maintaining my principles – and if other legislators do the same, we will have a very successful session.*

*Many important issues will be addressed this year, the first being our biennial state budget. As we address the budget, we are faced with two choices: cut taxes and spending to let people keep more of what they earn, or spend more on bigger government. I would prefer to place my trust in you, the people, rather than in more state government.*

*Just 10 years ago, the Washington State General Fund budget was about \$12.8 billion dollars (for the entire two-year budget cycle that our state operates on). A decade later, our General Fund budget exceeded \$20 billion, and for the coming 2001-03 budget, estimates put our budget at more than \$23 billion. These enormous increases are not only the result of economic successes and population growth in our state – they have also arisen from dramatically higher taxes and fees paid by citizens and families just like mine and yours.*

*This year, my goal as vice-chair of the House Finance Committee is to break this cycle. I believe that taxes are too high, that government spends too much, and that money which ought to be in your bank accounts is being wasted on a bloated state bureaucracy that has become too intrusive in our private lives. My hope is that the next ten years will not see the same rapid, reckless increases in state spending – but rather a return to fiscal responsibility and government accountability.*

*Finally, please take a moment to fill out and return the enclosed survey. Your views on these issues will help me represent you more effectively in Olympia.*

*Sincerely,*

Dan Roach  
Your State Representative

## **Your views are important to me!**

As your new state representative, it's important that I hear from you. Here are just a few reasons to contact my office:

- Ask me a question
- Share your concerns
- Get help with a state agency
- Give me advice
- Schedule a time to meet
- Find out more about how state government works

## ***I'll work to make your voice heard in Olympia!***



## 2001-2003 BUDGET REPORT

### *Making government more efficient and accountable!*

One of the biggest tasks facing the Legislature over the 105-day session this year is crafting a budget for the 2001-2003 fiscal period. With 147 members of the House and Senate combined, it's safe to say that there are probably 147 different views of what our final budget should look like. I will continue to stress government accountability, savings and efficiencies to pay for needed programs, rather than onerous tax or fee increases. For continued prosperity we must make government both more efficient and more accountable.

The current budget proposal by Governor Locke has raised a number of issues that will be considered over course of this session. His budget:

- Spends \$22.726 billion;
- Makes \$342 million in spending cuts, but then adds \$1.2 billion in new spending;
- Spends \$425 million more than estimated revenue for the 2001-03 biennium;
- Transfers \$170 million from the emergency reserve fund to pay for transportation – only enough to pay for maintenance and preservation;
- Includes a \$9.6 billion transportation project list with no proposal of how to pay for it;
- And, leaves only \$157 million in unrestricted reserves and only \$433 million in the emergency reserve fund.

This budget proposal does not take into account that our state's economy may indeed slow down, something I will emphasize as vice chair of the House Finance Committee. Higher health care and energy costs, and new challenges facing the technology industry, are all factors that could lead to fewer revenues available to the state. Were this to occur, under the governor's plan, taxes

would either have to be raised quite dramatically, or large cuts would have to be made somewhere in the budget.

Back in 1991, a very similar budget that did not take economic problems into account led to serious cuts in medical/dental care and public schools just two years later. I will work instead to pass a responsible budget that sets more money aside for emergencies, reins in the growth of state spending, doesn't exceed the existing I-601 state spending limit, and truly changes the way government does business. Those are my priorities as we consider the budget this year.

## EDUCATION: 'A' IS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

During the 1999-2001 budget cycle, our state government spent more than \$10 billion dollars (about 46 percent of the General Fund budget) on K-12 public schools. But are we really seeing a solid return on our investment?

Consider this: only one-third of our state's 10th graders are passing their math requirements, just 41 percent are meeting their writing requirements, and nearly 12 percent of our state's 18-24 year-olds have failed to earn a high school diploma. We can and must do better!

This year, we will work to make schools and teachers more accountable. We should reward those who are successful and provide assistance to those who aren't. Our children are Washington's most valuable resource – and we can't afford to leave any child behind.

## You're invited!

**Please join me and Senator Pam Roach at one of these 31st District Town Hall Meetings**

**Saturday, March 17th**

**11:00 am: Bonney Lake Senior Center  
19304 Bonney Lake Blvd.**

**1:00 pm: Auburn Library  
1102 Auburn Way South**

**3:00 pm: Enumclaw Library  
1700 1st Street**

**Your views are important to me!**

# 2001 Good Government Survey

*(Please cut and mail back to us. Thanks!)*

Please take a moment to share your thoughts and concerns about the issues below. Your answers will help me represent you more effectively throughout this legislative session.

## YOUR PRIORITIES

Please rank the following ten issues in order of their importance (*1=most important; 10=least important*)

- \_\_\_ Crime / Public Safety
- \_\_\_ Government Reform
- \_\_\_ Education
- \_\_\_ Health Care
- \_\_\_ Election / Campaign Reform
- \_\_\_ Taxes
- \_\_\_ Energy (electric/gas utilities)
- \_\_\_ Transportation
- \_\_\_ Environment
- \_\_\_ Economic Development/Jobs

## ENERGY

Our State and region are facing a coming Energy Crisis. As the population has grown over the last 25 years, little or no new energy resources have been developed. We'll see prices increase dramatically and two distinct proposals offered to "solve" the problem. Which would you prefer?

- \_\_\_ Eliminate private utility companies and have government step in and run all energy production and distribution systems.
- \_\_\_ Allow private utility companies and others to develop new energy sources so supply increases.

## BUDGET & TAXES

The state's voter-approved spending limit (Initiative 601) should be:

- \_\_\_ Maintained
- \_\_\_ Amended
- \_\_\_ Repealed

Governor Locke states that balancing the budget while providing new funding to meet the state's budget needs will require reductions in existing state programs and services. In what areas would you support spending cuts to help balance the budget? (*Rank by order of priority.*)

- \_\_\_ Public Schools
- \_\_\_ Social Services
- \_\_\_ Health Care
- \_\_\_ Higher Education
- \_\_\_ Natural Resources
- \_\_\_ Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_



(Continued on next page)

Olympia, WA 98504-0600  
P.O. Box 40600  
Representative Dan Roach



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With the passage of I-728 and I-732, as well as growing demands in other sectors of the government, the state is facing a \$1.2 billion gap in the budget. How should the Legislature address this issue? (*please circle one*)

- I. Cut other state spending and social services
- II. Increase gas and sales taxes as necessary
- III. Ask for public approval of tax increases on the next ballot
- IV. A combination of spending cuts and tax increases
- V. Repeal the initiatives and freeze state spending

- \_\_\_ State gov't works fine as it is – no need for major changes.
- \_\_\_ State gov't doesn't do enough – increase spending to fund new programs.

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

If there are other issues or concerns you would like to share with me, please include them in the following lines. Remember, together we truly can change how government does business.

## EDUCATION

Please rank the following education issues in order of importance to you (*1=most important; 5=least important*)

- \_\_\_ Local control
- \_\_\_ Quality teachers (including dismissing poor teachers)
- \_\_\_ School choice for parents
- \_\_\_ Smaller classes
- \_\_\_ Teacher pay

## STATE GOVERNMENT

Please indicate which statement below most accurately reflects your view of state government:

- \_\_\_ State gov't is too large, bureaucratic and intrusive. I don't feel it serves my interests well.
- \_\_\_ State gov't is too large and bureaucratic, but I believe things could be worse.

Please provide your email address if you would like to receive to regular updates.  
E-mail: